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ABSTRACT

The responses of elementary and secondary school teachers and community members in Pine Bluff (Arkansas) regarding a local Teacher Corps project are presented in this report. The first part of the report gives a summary of the teachers' responses to 31 questions dealing with participant characteristics and degree of satisfaction with specific project activities, such as the Program for Effective Teaching and skills for working in multicultural classrooms. A summary for this section of the study presents an analysis of the results, noting the high rating given the project by the teachers. Part II of the report summarizes community members' awareness and perceptions of the project and presents sample comments. (FG)

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ED219375

# UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT PINE BLUFF
# TEACHER CORPS PROJECT
# EXTERNAL EVALUATION

## General Statement

Since the design of this evaluation was to focus on the participants' perception of the Teacher Corps Project Programmatic activities, it could be regarded as a participants' opinion survey. As a kind of reconnaissance, this opinion survey attempts to find out how well this Project achieved its objectives. This report therefore summarizes the participants' perceptions and evaluations of the Teacher Corps Project service delivery system.

Based on the results of the data, it is the general consenus of the Teacher Corps Participants that the programmatic activities did provide opportunity for key administrators, faculty, staff, and community persons to gain information and skills regarding the need for curriculum change in the Pine Bluff School District and some procedures by which changes may be affected.

The overall evaluation of the Teacher Corps Project was positive. The program is well organized and sufficient supporting documentation was available for review on-site. The progress achieved seems to be directly correlated to the Teacher Corps Project administrative support and encouragement enjoyed by the various program activities.

SP 020 570

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ANALYSIS OF THE TEACHER CORPS PROJECT QUESTIONNAIRE

1979-1982

PART I.

1. What is your present position?

| | MALE | FEMALE |
|---|---|---|
| Arts and Humanities Teacher | 1 | 1 |
| Chemistry " " | 1 | 0 |
| Civics " " | 2 | 0 |
| Coach " " | 2 | 0 |
| Counselor | 1 | 1 |
| English Teacher | 0 | 1 |
| Geography " " | 0 | 1 |
| Mathematics " " | 1 | 0 |
| Music " " | 0 | 1 |
| Principal | 1 | 0 |
| Reading Teacher | 0 | 1 |
| Science " " | 0 | 1 |
| Social Studies " " | 0 | 1 |
| Special Education " " | 0 | 3 |
| Teacher | 7 | 53 |
| TOTAL: | 16 | 64 |

2. In what Teacher Corp Project school are you currently teaching or connected?

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| First Ward | 1 | 6 |
| Indiana Street | 0 | 9 |
| Southeast | 2 | 14 |
| Belair Junior High School | 5 | 9 |
| Pine Bluff High School | 6 | 23 |
| TOTAL: | 14 | 61 |

3. Are you between the ages of: (Check one).

| AGE | MALE | FEMALE |
|---|---|---|
| 20 - 29 | 5 | 10 |
| 30 - 39 | 5 | 20 |
| 40 - 49 | 3 | 16 |
| 50 or over | 1 | 14 |
| Total: | 14 | 60 |

4. Sex: 24 57

5. How many years had you taught prior to entering the Teacher Corps Project?

| YEARS | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 - 5 | 4 | 11 |
| 6 - 10 | 3 | 14 |
| 11 - 15 | 2 | 15 |
| 16 + | 4 | 17 |
| Total: | 13 | 57 |

6. Ethnic group you belong:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| White | 10 | 41 |
| Black | 4 | 20 |
| Total: | 14 | 61 |

7. For future teacher education programs such as Teacher Corps would you recommend that instruction be held:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| University of Arkansas | 4 | 10 |
| Pine Bluff Public Schools | 9 | 48 |
| Anyplace | 1 | 1 |
| Total: | 19 | 59 |

8. What course or courses would you say best prepare you for working with children or different ethnic groups:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Black History | 1 | 1 |
| Child Literature | 0 | 1 |
| Contemporary Problems of Education | 0 | 1 |

| | MALE | FEMALE |
|---|---|---|
| Ethnic Studies | 0 | 1 |
| Evaluation of Instruction | 0 | 1 |
| Guidance | 1 | 2 |
| Human Growth | 2 | 0 |
| Introduction to Counselor Methods and Techniques of Counseling | 1 | 0 |
| Multiculture Workshop | 2 | [illegible] |
| Psychology | 3 | 1 |
| Reading | 0 | 3 |
| Social Studies | 1 | 6 |
| Teaching Children with Learning Disabilities | 0 | 2 |
| Value Clarification | 1 | 11 |
| Total: | 12 | 37 |

PERCENTAGE RESPONSES OF THE PARTICIPANTS

TEACHER CORPS PROJECT
1979 - 1982

| | Extremely Valuable | Valuable | Neutral | Less Than Marginally Valuable | No Value | Extremely Valuable or Valuable |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9. Did the workshops contribute to your ability to work with multicultural groups? | 14 | 27 | 27 | 9 | 23 | 41 |
| 10. Did P.E.T. (Program for Effective Teaching) help you better understand the child and his strengths and needs? | 32 | 24 | 26 | 7 | 11 | 56 |
| 11. Did P.E.T. help you select the correct objective for your students at the right level of difficulties? | 38 | 27 | 23 | 11 | 2 | 65 |
| 12. Did you use the information in P.E.T. to teach your classroom objectives? | 36 | 30 | 25 | 5 | 4 | 66 |
| 13. Did P.E.T. help you maintain the focus of your students on the learning in your classroom? | 29 | 38 | 24 | 9 | 0 | 67 |
| 14. Did P.E.T. help you to monitor and adjust your lessons to meet the needs of your students? | 29 | 34 | 25 | 7 | 5 | 63 |
| 15. Did P.E.T. afford you the opportunity to use without abusing the principles of learning? | 28 | 28 | 31 | 4 | 9 | 56 |
| 16. How would you rate the overall Teacher Project? | 34 | 25 | 34 | 5 | 2 | 59 |

Please answer questions numbered 17-24 by circling the word YES or NO after each question.

| | YES | NO |
|---|---|---|
| 17. Has the Teacher Corps Project prepared you to work better in a multicultural groups? | 66 | 34 |
| 18. Did the Teacher Corps Program provide you with a variety of experiences working with multicultural disadvantaged students? | 41 | 59 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 19. | Did the Teacher Corps Project provide you with a variety of experience working with gifted and talented students? | 37 | 63 |
| 20. | Were there workshops and courses provided by the Teacher Corps Project that placed emphasis on educating all students regardless of race and intellectural ability? | 83 | 17 |
| 21. | Are you currently teaching children from multicultural backgrounds? | 90 | 10 |
| 22. | Did you, as a teacher, have any problems related to P.E.T.? | 12 | 88 |

a. If so what?

| | # of Responses |
|---|---|
| 1) Instructors failed to apply principles they were teaching | 1 |
| 2) Emphasis on language become cumbersome | 1 |

| | YES | NO |
|---|---|---|
| 23. Were there parts of the Teacher Corps Project inadequate and should be deleted from future similar programs? | 33 | 67 |

a. If yes, please specify.

| | # of Responses |
|---|---|
| 1) Guidance course was not practical for elementary school teachers. | 2 |
| 2) History of America-course we never knew where we stood. | 2 |
| 3) Course repetitive. | 1 |
| 4) Courses should be more demanding. | 1 |
| 5) More emphasis should be placed on students not theories--more practical applications. | 1 |

| | YES | NO |
|---|---|---|
| 24. Were there provisions in the Teacher Corps Project that helped you apply the theory you learned? | 76 | 24 |

Before the statements below, fill in the blank with the letter that best represent your feeling about the statement. Please use the following scale.

| | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Uncertain | Agree | Strongly Agree | Agree or Strongly Agree |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 25. a. Teacher Corps materials allowed you the opportunity to better implement your curriculum in your classroom. | 15 | 8 | 10 | 54 | 13 | 67 |
| b. Minority students are very difficult to teach. | 36 | 44 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 11 |
| c. There is no difference in the problem of economically disadvantaged Black students and the problems of economically disadvantaged White students. | 11 | 45 | 17 | 23 | 5 | 28 |
| d. There is no difference in the needs of economically disadvantaged Black students and the needs of advantaged Black students. | 17 | 66 | 5 | 8 | 5 | 13 |
| e. There is no difference in the needs of advantaged Black students and the advantaged White students. | 8 | 36 | 16 | 36 | 5 | 41 |
| It is difficult to motivate minority students to learn because of: | | | | | | |
| f. Their discipline in classroom. | 23 | 38 | 18 | 15 | 5 | 20 |
| g. Inadequate and inappropriate materials. | 18 | 38 | 13 | 30 | 0 | 30 |
| h. Black hostility | 32 | 35 | 20 | 12 | 2 | 14 |
| i. Difficulties in understanding the language of the children. | 40 | 47 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 9 |

Please answer questions numbered 26 through 28 by using the following rating.

| | Excellent | Good | Average | Below Average | Poor | Good or Excellent |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 26. How do you feel the Teacher Corps Project was managed. | 21 | 33 | 25 | 13 | 8 | 54 |
| 27. How well do you feel the Teacher Corps Project has achieved it objectives. | 13 | 37 | 24 | 20 | 7 | 50 |
| 28. How useful has the series of Teacher Corps workshops/classes been in providing you the opportunity for study and discussion of issues, concerns, and problems for your own growth and development. | 15 | 30 | 32 | 21 | 2 | 45 |

29. How did the program help you personally?

a) Made me aware the needs of our students and how little graduate courses strive to meet their needs.

b) Added to my course work background.

c) Not to feel bad when 100% mastery is not achieved.

d) Overcame some ideas about different ethnic group.

e) Came to know my co-workers.

f) Helped to communicate with my students.

g) Helped to broaden teaching techniques.

h) It provided hours towards a masters degree.

i) It did introduce me to some new issues in education.

j) More information on multiculture.

k) By providing P.E.T. and easily accessible master program.

l) Helped me to become a better teacher.

m) Helped me to realize the value of a good education and the importance of being a good teacher.

n) I am more knowledgeable of the way children learn the educational system of our country. Methods of teaching, evaluating textbooks and teaching materials.

o) Review concepts I already know and introduced me to new ones.

p) Got me out of rut, started me using new ideas, helped me learn new theories in the teaching field.

q) Financial assistance for purchase of new 1980 multicultural audio visual aids added a much needed supplement to our teaching resources.

r) Refresher course in area I wanted.

s) It helped me to better understand how to work with economically disadvantaged children.

t) It helped me to become knowledgeable about finding resourceful materials.

u) I watched teacher participants grow professionally.

v) Review ideas from colleagues.

w) The program helped me to gain more methods and materials for presenting daily lessons.

x) The only benefit was the materials they furnished.

y) Made me aware of my problems.

z) P.E.T. helped me to see the importance of a well planned lesson.

30. Which Teacher Corps consultants provided you with ideas/information you could use in your classroom?

a) None.
b) Reading specialist from New Jersey
c) Frank Long
d) Bill Stringer
e) P.E.T. useful in many ways especially in planning appropriate materials.
f) Dr. Gannings
g) Dr. Grvin
h) Dr. Ward
i) Dr. Davis
j) Dr. Taylor
k) Janet Finch
l) Multicultural workshop
m) Dr. Besoner and outstanding professor
n) Dr. Hines
o) Dr. Harvey
p) Discipline
q) Dr. Ollion
r) Dr. Cornish
s) One speaker on discipline had good points.

t) Rae Rice Perry
u) All consultants were helpful.

31. What has been the real impact of the UAPB/UAF Teacher Corps Project on the schools and the community:

a) Teachers were able to get their Masters degree.

b) Little impact.

c) Many teachers are better prepared to deal with day to day problems.

d) Enable to put our ideas together and work on one accord for the betterment of schools and community.

e) Continuing education has become more real to many more teachers.

f) I doubt that there will be any long range impact.

g) Teachers more educated which should help overall program.

h) Cannot see a real impact in the school I teach.

i) Helped faculty of different schools to share experiences.

j) It has provided schools with training, consultants, and materials that produce better education.

k) Helped to work on problems pertaining to the community.

l) Helped to bridge problem between school and community.

m) Helped the community but did not reach those who needed most.

n) Teachers were made aware of their weaknesses and where they needed improvement.

o) Made teachers aware of how the community can work with teachers in formulating flexible programs for students.

p) Made people aware of the various cultures in the community.

SUMMARY OF THE ANALYSIS

Eighty participants filled out the questionnaire of the Teacher Corp Project. Some answered all questions but others left out some questions unanswered either in advertently or because they were not applicable. Form question 4, we were able to identify 16 male teachers and 64 female teachers and some of the disciplines they teach.

The largest number of questionnaires were answered by 14 male teachers and 23 female teachers connected with the Teacher Corps Project of the Pine Bluff High School. The breakdown is given in item two. The largest number of participants were between ages thirty and thirty-nine. A complete breakdown by age and sex is given in item three. The breakdown by years in service shows that the number of participants in each category were almost identical except in the last category which is 16+ years of experience where we had the most number of participants. This is very significant in the sense that it appears the older teachers felt a greater need to participate in this endeavor. The breakdown according to ethnic group showed that whites out numbered blacks by a ratio of about 2:1 in the program. More people felt that future Teacher Corps Programs should be held in Pine Bluff High Schools. It appears that value classification course and the multiculture workshop helped the participants most in working with children of different ethnic groups. This is especially significant because 90% of the teachers indicated that they are teaching children from multicultural backgrounds.

Questions 9 through 15 were directed at the program for effective teaching. The responses show that in all categories 41% to 67% of the participants indicated that the program was valuable or extremely valuable.

Most participants also valued the Teacher Corps Project very highly except in response to question 18 and 19. These two aspects of the project should be carefully studies and suitable modifications should be implemented. Questions 22 and 23 if answered yes were open ended. The detail comments of the participant are made available. Question 25 gives an indication of the attitudes of teachers towards economically disadvantaged Black students therefore the responses are stated without comment. Questions 26, 27, and 28 ask for perceptions of participants with respect to management, objectives and usefulness of the Teacher Corps Project. In all of these aspects most participants felt that the project was either good or excellent. Questions 29, 30 and 31 were open ended comments and the remarks of participants are stated unabridged.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION COMPONENT

Part II.

Summaries of Participant Perception Questionnaire

Percentage Responses of Teacher Corps/Community Participants Perceptions of the Overall Program:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Did you know that the Pine Bluff School District, in connection with the University of Arkansas, had a Teacher Corps Project? | 85% | 15% |
| 2. | Did you receive a copy of the Teacher Corps Newsletter? | 66% | 34% |
| 3. | Did you find the Teacher Corps Newsletter useful? | 70% | 30% |
| 4. | Do you feel P.E.T. (Program for Effective Teaching) has had an impact on the way your child is being taught in school? | 87% | 13% |
| 5. | Are you aware of the parent training sessions being held in the district? | 66% | 34% |
| | If so, have you attended any? | | |

COMMENTS:

"I think the Teacher Corps Project was a success."

"My job did not permit me to participate."

" I did not know about the meetings."

"Teacher Corps and P.E.T. have had a positive effect on my children. The idea of the program was very good, knowing that my child has added assistance and is being taught according to the principles of P.E.T. eases my troubled mind."

"P.E.T. has been very helpful in teaching my child in reading."

"The Teacher Corps Project is very interesting. I feel it has been very useful and stimulating to my child. It is very interesting to me."

"I feel that the Teacher Corps Program is a very valid program for our young children."

"I feel that the Teacher Corps Project in the Pine Bluff School District has benefited me tremendously. I do regret, however, that more parents have not been involved."

SUMMARY OF THE ANALYSIS

Forty-seven subjects responded to the questionnaire regarding Teacher Corps/Community Participants' perceptions of the overall program. Eighty-five percent knew that the Pine Bluff School District had a Teacher Corps Project in connection with the University of Arkansas. Of the 66% who received a copy of the Teacher Corps Newsletter, 70% found it useful.

Eighty-seven percent of the respondents felt that P.F.T. had an impact on the way their child was taught in school, and 66% were aware that parent training sessions were also being held in the district.

Except for comments expressing a lack of opportunity to participate in the program, all comments were favorable.